

## 8.1 Analysis Scenarios

A proposed north-south connector was included as part of the Record of Decision issued by the FHWA and the NCDOT for the North Charlotte Outer Loop (I-485) on October 15, 1992. Therefore, only the Edinmeadow Drive Build Alternative is considered in the following impact analysis.

## 8.2 Study Areas for Indirect and Cumulative Impacts

The following study areas are shown on **Figure 4**.

### **Direct Community Impact Area**

The Direct Community Impact Area (DCIA) is the area surrounding a construction project that is likely to be directly affected in any way during, throughout, and after project completion. The DCIA for this project corresponds with the project study area boundary.

### **Demographic Study Area**

The Demographic Study Area is defined to provide demographic characteristics for the community surrounding the project. It is the smallest statistical area of the 2010 Census that includes the DCIA. The Demographic Study Area for this project is 2010 Census Tract 55.18, Block Group 2.

The high volume of population growth in Mecklenburg County between 2000 and 2010 resulted in changes to census block group boundaries. As a result of these boundary changes, a larger Demographic Study Area was required to allow for direct comparisons between the two Census years. Numbers from this expanded study area were only used to identify area trends.

## 8.3 Socioeconomic Characteristics

The socioeconomic characteristics discussion includes information about the population of the study area, countywide trends, income, and housing.

### **Population**

According to the US Census, there were 28,271 persons residing within the Expanded Demographic Study Area in 2010. This represents an increase of 16,717 persons, or 144.7 percent, from the 2000 population of 11,554. This population increase is notably higher than the growth rate of 32.2 percent experienced by Mecklenburg County as a whole.

### **Countywide Trends**

From 2000 to 2010, the population of Mecklenburg County increased by 32.2 percent from 695,454 to 919,628. Within Mecklenburg County, this growth has primarily occurred via urban sprawl in areas to the north, south, and east of Charlotte. In most cases, new development has replaced agricultural and rural land uses, and the development of greenfields, particularly along the I-485 corridor, is likely to continue.

Future population estimates were obtained from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management for Mecklenburg County and the state, and are shown in **Table 6**. The future growth rates